



## Neighborhood Meeting with City Council

### North Rose Hill Neighborhood

Submitted Questions/Comments (7)

Meeting Date: November 19, 2012



#### City Manager's Office

1. Please explain what the City Council's priority is related to neighborhoods in light of the strong focus on economic development.

**Response:** *Support for neighborhoods and businesses are not mutually exclusive efforts or competing goals. In fact, a healthy business environment is necessary to sustain quality services to neighborhoods and to provide jobs and services for residents. Likewise, quality neighborhoods attract quality businesses that are drawn to communities where their employees want to work and live. Neighborhoods and businesses have a shared responsibility to sustain a vibrant community. The City Council's commitment to economic development is based on these principles. Recent economic events that impacted local businesses and led to a \$2 million sales tax loss had a direct impact on community services including reductions in park maintenance, street median maintenance and neighborhood services support. The 2012 community survey indicated that residents believe that attracting and retaining business is an important function, but one that we could improve upon. Although additional resources for economic development were not recommended in the preliminary budget, the existing program was sustained at the current level.*

#### Parks and Community Services Department

2. I wanted to inquire about the status of the playground located on 128th Ave. NE just south of NE 100th Street. It is part of North Rose Hill Woodlands Park. My daughter affectionately refers to it a "Pocket Park" to distinguish it from the "Castle Park" side. The equipment in this park is deteriorating. There a climbing structure that is partially boarded up. There is a fire truck that has fallen apart to the point where there are sharp pieces of metal exposed. Most of the ladders on the climbing structures are being held together with duct tape. I noticed that the Kirkland Kiwanis posted a flier that they were trying to raise some money to replace some of the equipment -- which is wonderful -- but the conditions in the park seem dangerous enough and equipment has deteriorated to the point where this should be fixed sooner rather than later. I would imagine that money is limited for this kind of thing, but I would hate to see this park get more attention only after some child gets hurt. It seems to me that this is the City's responsibility to fix immediately.

**Response:** *The "pocket park" was originally scheduled to be replaced in 2005 when the new play area was completed ("Castle Park"). The intent was to have only one playground at the park, thus removing the play equipment and fencing that surrounded this area. The plan was to have the area planted to blend into the park's natural landscape. However, there were significant requests to delay removing the play equipment. Families with very young children appreciated having a separate area for toddlers. Staff that is certified in playgrounds inspects all playgrounds in Kirkland Parks once a month. Because of the ongoing inspections, several play elements have been removed and/or closed off. As much as we have kept some elements intact and safe, its construction of laminated wood, will not survive another winter, therefore the playground will be removed this month.*

#### Planning Department

3. Please explain why a resident has to pay a fee to raise a safety concern about a construction project? What are the fees and why do we have them?

**Response:** *The City welcomes public comment about construction projects, including expression of concerns. Fees are not charged, except for certain appeals or challenges of quasi-judicial land use applications. For public construction projects, comments may be submitted directly to the project manager in the applicable department. For private construction projects involving only a building permit, comments may be submitted to the assigned plans reviewer in the Fire and Building Department.*

*For land use permits, comments may be submitted to the project planner in the Planning Department. However, many land use permits have specific time periods in which comments must be submitted in order to be considered by the decision maker. Public notice of those time periods is provided. Some land use permits also involve public hearings at which oral comments may be given. All comments submitted by the established deadlines will be considered by the decision maker. Most land use decisions may be appealed or challenged. This is a formal process and does involve submittal of a small fee.*

*Note that to be effective, comments about private construction projects should relate to the regulations that are applicable to the project. Private property owners have a right to proceed with their projects consistent with the applicable building and land use regulations.*

## **Public Works Department**

4. What is the status of the remaining Slater Avenue Traffic Control Plan? When will the remaining elements of the plan be implemented?

**Response:** *With the passage of Proposition 1, some funding for Neighborhood Traffic Control projects, crosswalk improvements and safe school walk routes will be available. Council and staff are currently working on how and where these funds will be spent, and the Slater projects are a good candidate.*

5. I wanted to comment and express my dissatisfaction in regards to neighborhood input regarding traffic and the new construction at the North end of the neighborhood. Particularly as it regards the Traffic Advisory committee.

**Response:** *Staff has contacted the author of this comment to obtain more specific information about their concerns. For more information contact Thang Nguyen at [TNguyen@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:TNguyen@kirklandwa.gov) or (425) 587-3869.*

6. What can be done to make the intersection of NE 95th Street and 128th Avenue NE safer for children walking to and from school?

**Response:** *Public Works would be happy to work with Mark Twain Elementary and the neighborhood to improve safety. We have reached out to the school in the past. Please contact Iris Cabrera at (425) 587-3866 or [icabrera@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:icabrera@kirklandwa.gov).*

7. The City added a westbound to southbound turn lane on NE 95th Street at 124th Avenue NE. By doing so, they widened the road and took away the space along the road for pedestrians to walk. Can a sidewalk be added or something to make it safer for pedestrians at this intersection?

**Response:** *The Public Works Department will investigate this request and include it with other suggested capital projects to be prioritized for funding in the Capital Improvement Program. The City prepares a six year CIP which plans for the improvements and maintenance of the City's transportation and parks systems. Suggestions, such as yours, are combined with other project ideas and evaluated based on the CIP prioritization process and available funding. The draft CIP is then discussed with the Transportation Commission and Parks Board before being submitted to the City Council. The City Council reviews, updates and adopts the CIP every two years. Check back on the City's web site for more information about public involvement opportunities or stay involved with your neighborhood association which can be a very effective conduit for promoting your capital improvement ideas. For more information, go to [www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov) and search [transportation prioritization process](#).*